Ring buttons

US terms



Finished size
About 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) across for the large buttons, 7/8 in (2.2 cm) for the medium ones and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) for the small ones

Skill
Easy
Worked in rounds, with 6 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Lace (0), 3 colors

Hook
1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7)

Gauge
34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: navy, the large buttons and the medium buttons	**about 7 yd (6 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, some of the small buttons	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: mustard, some of the large buttons	**about 7 yd (6 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton crochet thread, size 10

Hook: 1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking, two plastic rings of each of these sizes, measured across the outside: 1 in (2.5 cm), ¾ in (2 cm) and ½ in (1.3 cm), a soft board that takes pins, a toothpick, a spray bottle and stiff card, only if you want to keep the buttons together on a card.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

Gauge

34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Work a piece a little more than 4 in (10 cm) square, lay it flat and count. If you count more stitches than this, use a larger hook; if fewer, a smaller one.

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Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- In these buttons a plastic ring takes the place of a magic ring. To begin, hold the ring in your left hand with the yarn behind it, put the hook through the ring from front to back, pull up a loop and work the ch 1 above the ring. Work every sc over the ring and over the beginning end of the thread: hook through the ring, yarn over, pull up a loop, then yarn over above the ring and pull through both loops.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- Spread the stitches evenly round the ring. They stand close together, a little tighter than the gauge, so that they hide it.
- The middles are sewn with the yarn needle in three colors. For a large button the spokes and the wheel: ring A, spokes B, wheel C; ring C, spokes B, wheel A. For a medium button the down threads and the across threads: ring A, down C, across B; ring B, down A, across C. For a small button the spokes and the middle: ring C, spokes B, middle A; ring B, spokes A, middle C.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers to make a loop, work the first round into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured straight across the large button, worked on a ring that is larger in the same proportion: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 1¾ in (4.5 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 2 in (5 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 2¾ in (7 cm).

Instructions

The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch and sc is double crochet.

Large button: make 2

Make 1 in A and 1 in C. The line says A; for the second button read C in its place.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, take a plastic ring of 1 in (2.5 cm) in place of a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 32 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(32 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail.	

Medium button: make 2

Make 1 in A and 1 in B. The line says A; for the second button read B in its place.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, take a plastic ring of ¾ in (2 cm) in place of a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 24 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(24 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail.	

Small button: make 2

Make 1 in B and 1 in C. The line says B; for the second button read C in its place.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, take a plastic ring of ½ in (1.3 cm) in place of a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 16 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail.	

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Finishing

- Turn the edge: with your thumbs push the tops of all the sc over the ring toward the middle, until the line of chains that they make lies on the inner side of the ring, all the way round. The outer side is now smooth. Thread the 12 in (30 cm) tail, take it under the sc to the back of the button, and leave it there to sew the button on. To number the sc, begin anywhere and count the tops one way round; mark number 1 with a pin.
- Large button, spokes: thread a 20 in (51 cm) length of the spoke color and fasten it at the back of sc 1: take two small stitches, one over the other, through the threads at the back of the button, and leave an end of 2 in (5 cm) to weave in later. Every length of thread for a middle is fastened in this way before it is used. Bring the needle up through the top of sc 1, take the thread straight across and down through the top of sc 17. At the back slide the needle behind the stitches between to sc 21, come up through it, cross and go down through sc 5. Slide to sc 9, come up, cross and go down through sc 25. Slide to sc 29, come up, cross and go down through sc 13. You have 8 spokes. Come up in the middle, take two small stitches over the place where all the threads cross to draw them together, and fasten off at the back.
- Large button, wheel: fasten a 40 in (102 cm) length of the wheel color at the back of the middle and come up between two spokes, close to the middle. From here the needle stays on the front of the button and picks up the spokes only. Going round to the left, pass the needle under the next 2 spokes. [Take it back to the right over one spoke, the second of those 2, then to the left under that same spoke and under the one after it.] Work the part in square brackets again and again, over one spoke backward and under two forward. Each spoke becomes a rib. Lay each round against the one before, until the wheel meets the ring, about 8 rounds. Take the needle to the back and fasten off.
- Medium button, down threads: hold the button with its right side toward you and the space between sc 24 and sc 1 at the top. Thread a 20 in (51 cm) length of the down color and fasten it at the back of sc 21. Come up through the top of sc 21, go straight down the button and down through sc 16; come up through 15, go to 22; up through 23, to 14; up through 13, to 24; up through 1, to 12; up through 11, to 2; up through 3, to 10; up through 9, to 4. You have 8 threads side by side. Fasten off at the back.
- Medium button, across threads: thread a 20 in (51 cm) length of the across color and fasten it at the back of sc 3. Come up through the top of sc 3 and weave over the first down thread, under the next and so on, over and under one thread at a time, to sc 22; go down through it. Come up through 21 and weave back to 4; up through 5, to 20; up through 19, to 6; up through 7, to 18; up through 17, to 8; up through 9, to 16; up through 15, to 10. In every line go over the threads that the line before went under. Push the threads straight and fasten off at the back.
- Small button: thread a 10 in (25 cm) length of the spoke color and fasten it at the back of sc 1. Come up through the top of sc 1, cross and go down through sc 9; slide to 11, come up, cross and go down through 3; slide to 5, cross to 13; slide to 15, cross to 7. You have 8 spokes. Draw them together in the middle with two small stitches and fasten off. Fasten a 15 in (38 cm) length of the color for the middle at the back of the middle, come up between two spokes and work 1 round of the wheel as for the large button, close to the middle; take the needle to the back and fasten off; the rest of the spokes stays open.
- Block: when the six middles are sewn, pin the buttons out on a soft board, right side up, the pins round their edges, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Make a shank: bring the long tail to the middle of the back. Sew the button to the fabric with 4 stitches through the crossing of the spokes or threads, with a toothpick laid between the button and the fabric. Take the toothpick out, lift the button, wind the thread 5 times round the stitches under it and fasten off in the fabric. For a card, cut a piece of stiff card 3¼ in by 2¾ in (8.3 cm by 7 cm), set the buttons on it in two rows and hold each one with one stitch through the card.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 6 pieces; 144 stitches (32 in each large button, 24 in each medium button, 16 in each small button).

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